

## Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SY-05

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 PRS-01 USSS-00 /067 W

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O R 241545Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5471

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

66TH MI GROUP MUNICH GER IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 9441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: "REJECTIONIST" SOURCE PUBLISHES DETAILS OF MORGAN ABDUCTION

REF: (A) BEIRUT 8494; (B) BEIRUT 8793(NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PRO-LIBYAN DAILY, "AS SAFIR"

PUBLISHED ITEM JULY 23 ALLGEING ATTRIBUTION TO SOURCE WITHIN  
PALESTINIAN "REJECTIONIST" CAMP. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLA-  
LATION OF THIS ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

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2. QUOTE. PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST SOURCE TOLD OUR CORRESPONDENT DETAILS OF COL MORGAN'S KIDNAPPING. HE SAID MORGAN WAS ARRESTED BY ELEMENTS OF POPULAR STRUGGLE FRONT (PSF) WHO THOUGHT INITIALLY MORGAN WAS PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN AND DISCOVERED IN CHECKING HIS ID THAT MORGAN IS OFFICER IN US ARMY. MORGAN WAS TAKEN TO REJECTIONIST OFFICE IN BORJ AL BARAJNEH (REFUGEE CAMP), WHERE HE WAS INTERROGATED BY PFLP-GC OFFICIAL WHO REALIZED MORGAN IS RESPONSIBLE OFFICER IN CENTO COMMAND, AND THAT HE TRANSITING LEBANON AND DID NOT REALIZE SECURITY SITUATION SO ACUTE SINCE MORGAN TOOK TAXI TO AIRPORT TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR HIS DEPARTURE.

3. MORGAN WAS TAKEN TO HIGHER OFFICIALS AND WAS SUBJECTED TO THOROUGH INTERROGATION LASTING SEVERAL DAYS REGARDING NATURE OF HIS DUTIES, ACTIVITIES IN US ARMY, AND MISSIONS PERFORMED DURING HIS LONG SERVICE. REJECTIONIST OFFICIAL ADDED, "WE TOLD MORGAN FROM BEGINNING THAT WE WOULD SPARE HIS LIFE BECAUSE HE IS NEGRO; WE WERE ANXIOUS TO GIVE HIM BEST POSSIBLE TREATMENT AND HELD LONG AND DETAILED DISCUSSIONS RE HIS COUNTRY'S POSITION TOWARD PALESTINIAN CAUSE."

4. SOURCE ADDED THAT MORGAN APPEARED UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATIVE TO DEGREE AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM IN THIS SPIRIT. SOURCE SAID THAT INTERROGATION REVEALED THAT MORGAN COMPLETED AN INTELLIGENCE TOUR DURING HIS MILITARY SERVICE IN INTERESTS OF CIA. MORGAN DENIED HE IN INTELLIGENCE OR OCCUPIES POSITION IN ONE OF ITS BRANCHES. BUT IMPRESSION WE GAINED FROM INTERROGATION WAS THAT MORGAN WAS CONNECTED WITH CIA AND THAT HE PERFORMED SEVERAL INTELLIGENCE MISSIONS DURING HIS MILITARY SERVICE, BEGINNING WITH MISSION IN HUNGARY DURING "REACTIONARY ACTIVITIES" THERE IN 1956. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY OTHER MISSIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDOCHINA, IRAN AND CYPRUS DURING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. SAME SOURCE SAID "WE HAVE FULL FILE OF THOROUGH INTERROGATION HELD WITH MORGAN AND WE SHALL BENEFIT FROM IT, TOGETHER WITH CONCERNED BROTHERLY FRONTS."

5. PALESTINIAN SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT COMMAND WHICH DISCUSSED MORGAN FROM THE BEGINNING EXCLUDED EXECUTION UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HIS COLOR. COMMAND

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DISCUSSED ISSUE OF RANSOM WHICH COULD BE DEMANDED FOR MORGAN'S RELEASE. PROPOSAL WAS MADE TO DEMAND RELEASE OF ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI AND OTHER PRISONERS IN ISRAELI JAILS, BUT PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED BECAUSE EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT ISRAEL WOULD REJECT DEMAND IN ORDER TO PLACE ABDUCTORS IN EMBARRASSING POSITION. ANOTHER PROPOSAL TO RELEASE MORGAN WITHOUT CONDITIONS WAS ALSO EXCLUDED BECAUSE THIS COULD HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS SUBMISSION TO AMERICAN PRESSURES. ALSO PROPOSAL

FOR HIS EXECUTION WAS REJECTED BECAUSE IT WOULD PRODUCE NEW COMPLICATIONS IN LEBANON AND OTHER COMPLICATIONS RE ATTITUDES OF AMERICAN NEGROES. AT THIS POINT, PROPOSAL TO DEMAND FOOD-STUFFS FOR POOR OF MASLAKH QUARTER WAS ACCEPTED.

6. PALESTINIAN SOURCE WENT ON TO SAY THAT (PRIMIN) KARAME HAD INFORMED THEM THAT US AMBASSADOR GODLEY APPROVED THESE DEMANDS AND THAT LEBANESE ELEMENTS HAD INTERFERED AND DEMANDED THAT LEBANESE PRODUCE SOLUTION. SOURCE EXPLAINED CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISPUTES BETWEEN (PALESTINIAN) RESISTANCE COMMANDS ON SUBJECT(REFTEL B). IF IT IS NOT USEFUL TO REPEAT DETAILS OF STATEMENTS RE THIS SUBJECT, IT CAN BE SAID THAT DISPUTES GREW OUT OF MISUNDERSTANDING OR LACK OF INFORMATION CONVEYED TO THESE COMMANDS (I.E., ORGANIZATIONS).

7. SOURCE ASSERTED THAT "REJECTIONISTS" HAD INFORMED COMMANDS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT THEY WERE TAKING STEPS TO RELEASE MORGAN AND THAT DELAY WAS CAUSED BY MEASURES TO GIVE OPERATION LEBANESE CHARACTER. HE SAID THAT DURING MORGAN'S ENTIRE DETENTION, HE (MORGAN) DID NOT LEAVE BEIRUT AND INFORMATION TO CONTRARY WAS PART OF EFFORT TO IMPART LEBANESE OVERTONES. HE DENIED ABSOLUTELY THAT MORGAN WAS EVER TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER ARAB COUNTRY.

8. "AS SAFIR" ASKED SOURCE RE RUMORS OF PAYMENT OF TWO MILLION LEBANESE POUNDS AS RANSOM IN ADDITION TO FOOD-STUFFS DELIVERED TO MASLAKH AND ALLEGATION THAT THIS SUM WAS RECEIVED THROUGH SABBAGH BANK IN BEIRUT? SOURCE CATEGORICALLY DENIED THIS AND SAID THERE ARE MANY THINGS WHICH HE HAD NOT REVEALED. SOURCE SAID PAPER MUST HAVE HEARD THAT MANY LEBANESE QUARTERS, INCLUDING RAYMOND EDDE, TRIED TO OBTAIN MORGAN'S RELEASE IN RETURN FOR PAYMENTS TO KIDNAPPERS. IF SABBAGH BANK WAS INVOLVED, IT WAS PROBABLY CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR PURCHASE OF FOODSTUFFS TO PEOPLE OF MASLAKH THROUGH LEBANESE QUARTERS.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SY-05

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9. SAME SOURCE COMMENTED ON ATTITUDES OF ELEMENTS, INCLUDING "AS -SAFIR," WHICH DID NOT RPT NOT EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH (MORGAN) OPERATION AND SAID: "AN AMERICAN OFFICER WITH RANK OF COLONEL FELL INTO OUR HANDS IN TROUBLED TIMES; HOW SHOULD BE BEHAVE? SHOULD WE HAVE RELEASED HIM? WHO WOULD HAVE DONE SO IF THEY HAD ENJOYED SUCH GOOD HUNTING?" HE ASSERTED THAT, HAD MORGAN NOT BEEN A NEGRO, ABDUCTORS WOULD HAVE BEHAVED IN DIFFERENT MANNER. "WE HAVE TAKEN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OUR FEELINGS TOWARD AMERICAN NEGROES." "AS SAFIR" ASKED: "COULDN'T YOU HAVE  
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RELEASED HIM AFTER INTERROGATION WITHOUT RANSOM?" SOURCE REPEATED THAT MASLAKH PEOPLE RECEIVED AID WHICH CAME BECAUSE THE US HAD CAPITULATED... END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

10. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT:WITH THIS INTERVIEW, UNIDENTIFIED "REJECTIONIST" SPOKESMAN HAS COME FULL CIRCLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE INVOLVEMENT OF "REJECTIONIST" ELE-

MENTS FROM TIME OF COL. MORGAN'S ABDUCTION ON JUNE 29. MAIN OUTLINE OF EVENTS IN THIS ARTICLE ACCORDS WITH OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE OF EVENTS (RETEL A) AND CONFIRMS PLO STATEMENT ACCOUNT (REFTEL B). FICTION THAT REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST ACTION ORGANIZATION (RSAO) EVER HAD INDEPENDENT LIFE OF ITS OWN HAS BEEN LAID TO REST AS WELL. ASSERTION (PARA 6 ABOVE) THAT GENUINE DISSENTION WHICH DEVELOPED BETWEEN PLO MAINSTREAM AND "REJECTIONIST" MOB WAS RESULT OF MISUNDERSTANDING OR FAILURE OF COMMUNICATION APPEARS TO BE EFFORT TO DEFUSE SOURCE OF FRICTION.

1. WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION IS IDENTIFIED AS "REJECTIONIST" SPOKESMAN RATHER THAN MEMBER OF PFLP-GC (OR PSF). AS INDICATED IN REFTEL B, PFLP PUBLICLY RALLIED TO DEFENSE THESE MINOR ALLIES IN JULY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING PLO BLAST AGAINST THEM, AND WE CERTAIN PFLP KNOWS (AND HAS KNOWN FROM OUTSET) MORE ABOUT MORGAN ABDUCTION THAT ANYONE IS TELLING. IN THIS CONNECTION, SOURCE'S REFERENCE (PARA 4) TO SHARING RESULTS OF MORGAN INTERROGATION WITH "CONCERNED BROTHERLY FRONTS" IS INTRIGUING. IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY, SPEAKER IS REFERRING TO SUBVERSIVES IN TURKEY, ETC., THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH PFLP WHICH APPARENTLY HANDLES MOST SUCH CONTACTS.

12. WE HAVE CONSIDERED AND REJECTED POSSIBILITY THAT BULK OF THIS INTERVIEW CONSTITUTES DISINFORMATION. ASIDE FROM OBVIOUS LIES (E.G., THAT USG MET RANSOM DEMANDS) AND PROBABLE ONES (E.G., KARAME'S ALLEGED STATEMENTS RE AMBASSADOR), MOST OF SCENARIO DESCRIBED RINGS TRUE. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT BOTH PFLP AND PFLP-GC ARE RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM LIBYA AND SO, ACCORDING TO REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED, IS TRIPOLI-BASED "OCTOBER 24 MOVEMENT" OF FAROUK MUGADDAM, WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN HANDLING TRANSFER OF MORGAN FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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"REJECTIONISTS" TO PRIMIN KARAME ON JULY 12. COINCIDENTALLY, THE NEWSPAPER IN QUESTION, "AS SAFIR," ALSO RECEIVES SUBSIDIES FROM COL QADHAFI, AND IT STRETCHES OUR CREDULITY TO ASSUME THAT THE ARTICLE QUOTED ABOVE WAS MALICIOUS (AS REGARDS THE KIDNAPPERS) OR UNCOORDINATED. THE FACT THAT "AS SAFIR" ON JULY 24 PUBLISHED A STATEMENT BY ANOTHER "REJECTIONIST" SOURCE DENYING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE INTERVIEW DOES NOT ALTER THIS JUDGMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL  
GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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